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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 37% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 73,806 | Nifty 22,378 | Gold 63,600 | Silver 70,630 | Dollar 82.85 | Euro 89.93 | GBP 104.86

Despite prohibition, '90% of private/aided schools compel parents to buy books, uniforms from them/agents'

THIS AIN'T COOL SCHOOL

Schools sell textbooks, uniforms, stationery at exorbitant prices

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Private schools cannot compel parents to buy books, uniforms and other items that are required for students from certain shops that have a tie up with them. But the practice of selling books and uniforms continues at most of the schools.

Many parents could not afford not to heed the advice from such schools due to some reasons.

Some of the private schools make a lot of money by selling textbooks and uniforms for students either by themselves or through their agents. The cost of the uniforms varies from school to school or shops recommended by them. This practice makes parents pay extra money.

S Amaresh of Right to Information Study Centre sought data from the education department whether the private and aided schools are authorised to supply uniforms, books and other material to the students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

JOSEPH CHAN/UNSPLASH

> "The Department of School Education must take measures to stop private schools exploiting parents
> — S Amaresh, Right to Information Study Centre

Rain check

Pre-monsoon showers not yet on the horizon

PAGE 2

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art felt

Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Bengaluru and Palette People, Kochi, present 'Chitrakoodam: A Tribute to CN Karunakaran', a comprehensive exhibition celebrating the life and art of one of Kerala's most distinguished artists. This exhibition is set to showcase the prolific work of an artist who played a pivotal role in the modern art movement of independent India. **Where: Mezzanine Level, 38 Maini Sadan, 7th Cross Lavelle Road; When: Ongoing till March 31; 10 am to 6 pm**

02 Book talk

The book 'Redemption' by Bangalore-based author Harish Vasudevan is being launched in the city. Harish Vasudevan will be in conversation with publisher Karthika VK of Westland Books, talking about his debut thriller, which is a welcome addition to the growing list of Bangalore pulp fiction. Set in 2007 Bangalore, the book is a fast-paced thriller that begins with 17-year old Shalini Gowda looking forward to freedom from school and going clubbing her friends - until things take an unexpected turn.
Where: The Biere Club, Vittal Mallya Road
When: March 5, 6.30 pm

03 Growth story

Chief Economist at Axis Bank, a leading figure in global and Indian macroeconomic analysis, will delve into India's growth trajectory by offering insights into the structural factors benefiting India's growth story, improving capital formation (mostly in real-estate) and increasing share in services exports to provide a cyclical boost to the economy. This is part of the public lecture series by Azim Premji University. **Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC); When: March 5, 6 – 7.15 pm**

Pre-monsoon showers not yet on the horizon

Weathermen predict rainfall likely only after 15 days at least

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The sun sets on a hot March day in Bengaluru

With the summer months upon us, Bengalureans are feeling the heat alright. Prayers for rain are real, what with the water reservoirs and borewells fast drying up. However, the weathermen claim that we may have to wait for a few more weeks before pre-monsoon showers arrive.

According to Namma Karnataka Weather updates on X, "The models had earlier predicted wet weather in early March for the South Peninsula. But that does not seem to be the case now. The western disturbance is sticking to North India and hence no convergence buildup seen over the Deccan Plateau or Ghats of Karnataka-Kerala. Climate Forecast System (CFS) models are expecting thunderstorms post the third week of March and early April. Just have a feeling we are likely to see a conventional TS season with the bulk of rains only in April and May. It appears like the first 15 days would be dry for us and some isolated showers possible in the second fortnight."

Meanwhile, temperatures spiked to 33.3 Degree Celsius on February 28. "February threatened to be a hot month, but it was largely manageable and pleasant. On February 7 and 8, it breached 34C, but post that only on February 23 did the temperature touch 34," the update added.

Meanwhile, a weather update from Sanjay Weathermen pointed to La Nina conditions in June, July, August, as expected in their last weather prediction for 2024. "The South West Monsoon will be very good in parts of India, especially Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the Western Ghats region should expect very good rain."

La Nina effect

Usually, Karnataka has got good rainfall whenever there is La Nina condition while we have faced droughts during the El Nino like last year. The latest update from Skymet Weather indicates that moderate El Nino conditions persist in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. This means that the sea surface temperatures in this region are warmer than usual, which can have significant impacts on global weather patterns. However, the intensity of the El Nino event is gradually decreasing, which suggests that its influence may weaken over time. The update mentions that important oceanic and atmospheric indicators continue to show characteristics consistent with an ongoing El Nino event. However, compared to previous El Nino events of similar magnitude, the indicators are not as pronounced. This could mean that while El Nino conditions are still present, they may not be as strong as in the past.

Indicators

One key indicator mentioned is the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), which is currently within the ENSO-neutral range. The SOI measures the difference in air pressure between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia, and is used to monitor the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate pattern. A positive SOI value indicates ENSO-neutral conditions, meaning neither El Nino nor La Nina is dominant. The update also notes that the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has issued an El Nino advisory for March. A La Nina 'watch' has been issued for June to August 2024. This means that conditions are favourable for the development of La Nina. However, the CPC suggests that ENSO-neutral conditions will become the most likely category in the coming months, with the possibility of both El Nino and La Nina conditions by mid-2024.

The report further explains that forecasting El Nino before spring is challenging due to the spring predictability barrier. This barrier is caused by the transition of the Sun across the equator, which can create variability in the climate system. Additionally, the update mentions the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), a weather pattern that influences tropical cyclone activity. The MJO is currently moving eastward over the Indian Ocean, which could lead to increased storm activity, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. However, there are currently no active storms in any ocean, though tropical cyclone activity is expected to increase across the Indian Ocean in the coming weeks.

Bring the tankers, don't let the park plants die

The Horticulture Department within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has held a meeting to devise a plan to make sure that plants within parks that fall under their jurisdiction do not go thirsty through summer. They are hoping to ensure more than 1,000 parks are supplied with adequate water until the end of May. The horticulture superintendent, supervisor, inspectors and other officials were present in the meeting.

According to authorities, water tankers will be deployed to the parks while borewells present in the parks are being cleaned. To ensure that all the saplings survive, additional tractors (with 6,000 litre capacity) are also being hired to water them on a daily basis. Officials within the horticulture department are also holding meetings with authorities from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to make use of treated water for watering purposes. Since the ground-

Water tankers to be deployed at parks; existing borewells being cleaned

Water needs to be supplied for over 1,000 parks

water across many parks has reached an alarmingly low scale, the department has planned to install 1,000 percolation pits in over 110 parks. They hope that these percolation pits, by the next summer, will have enough water as there is an expectation for ground water to shoot up sufficiently.

Usha Rani, a citizen who lives in front of a BBMP park exclusively meant for children, said, "It would be a very good initiative as the summers in Bengaluru are now raging hot. By ensuring that the plants don't die, the department is doing away with the extra task of reviving the plants back in monsoon. They must also think of more sustainable measures to ensure continuous water supply." **— BMB**

Yoga mats can't touch the grass at Cubbon Park

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In a surprising turn of events at Cubbon Park, a group of yoga enthusiasts were allegedly barred by security officials from practising yoga with mats on the park's lush green lawns, on Sunday.

According to the yoga enthusiasts, this was the second time they are being stopped from practice. "Two months ago too, we were stopped. We have been practising yoga for more than a year opposite to the Karnataka Wine Board, irrespective of the weather.

About 27 minutes into the session, a security personnel showed up and stopped the session, stating, 'You are not supposed to practice yoga like this'. I didn't understand what he meant.

We were then told to stop the session immediately and take the yoga mats off the lawn. I even suggested that if the mat was a problem, we would try practising without it, but

they didn't listen," said Rakshith, a yoga Instructor.

He added that the security did not give them even five minutes to take the mats out. "Consequently, we had to end the session early. I have now asked the students if they could consider practising without yoga mats. Even when I teach yoga, I take all the details of the people practising with me to ensure security. Despite taking these measures, we had to face this situation," Rakshith said.

The horticulture department clarified that the restriction was in place to prevent damage to the grass caused by the pressure of multiple mats, which could lead to erosion and hinder the park's revitalisation efforts and to prohibit commercial training sessions.

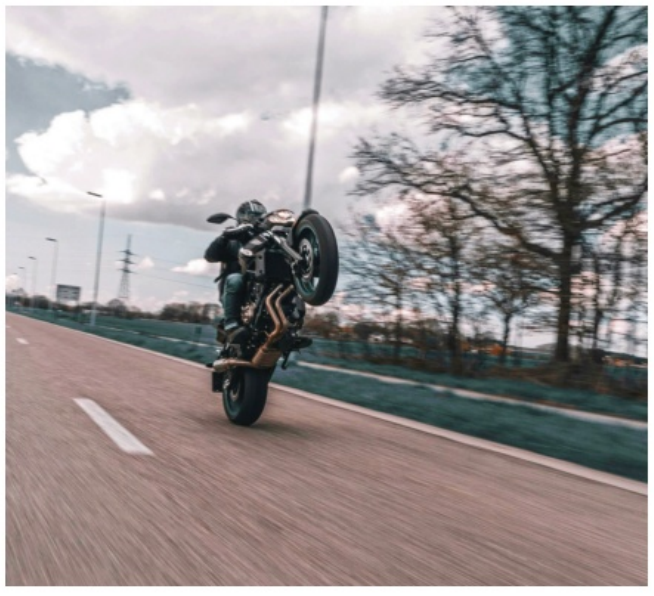
The yoga enthusiasts were quick to emphasise that it was not commercial training and it was done as part of the community for free. "We are just helping anyone who wants to do yoga with us, and there's no charge," they asserted.

Expressing their disappointment, they urged the horticulture department to install clear signage outlining the restrictions to avoid further confusion.

This incident follows recent discontent among the city's skating community, as a few months ago, authorities also halted skating activities in Cubbon Park.

Halt, who wheelies there

91 cases booked against wheeling offenders over week-long drive against traffic menace



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In an effort to enhance road safety and crack down on reckless driving behaviour, the Bengaluru Traffic Police conducted a special drive against wheeling offenders in the city from February 21 to 29.

During the week-long operation, a total of 91 cases were booked, said Alok Kumar, ADGP, traffic and road safety.

"Wheeling has been proven to be fatal for many innocent road users. We conducted a statewide week-long drive against wheeling, including against persons who had wheeling-related posts on their social media accounts. The total cases booked in the state were 170, with 91 in Bengaluru and 18 in Mysuru. There will be zero tolerance for such activities," tweeted the top cop.

The crackdown resulted in the seizure of 74 vehicles used for wheeling activities and 59 individuals were apprehended for their involvement in wheeling.

The drive also revealed that 24 minors were found to be engaging in wheeling activities. In response to this alarming finding, action was taken against 23 guardians of the minors involved.

Additionally, as part of the enforcement measures, 18 driving licences were sent for suspension, and 38 registration certificates were sent for cancellation.

In a press note released following the special drive, the traffic police reiterated their determination to make the city's roads safer through stringent enforcement of traffic rules. They emphasised that such special drives will continue to be conducted regularly.

Citizens say sensitising youngsters on the fatal effects of such activities is something that the police must look into.

"This should also be done by schools and colleges by involving parents as well. It is not just harmful for them but also to other road users.

Another thing that can be explored is providing safe avenues for youngsters to practice vehicle stunts as a sport under the supervision of trained experts. This may help channel their interest without harming the public," said a citizen.

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Sub-centres good, but reopening clinics better

Animal husbandry department's new plan to set up sub-centres termed knee-jerk reaction to protests

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If the latest order to open six sub-centres for the treatment of cows, dogs, cats, goats, etc. is anything to go by, it seems the animal husbandry and veterinary services department has realised its blunder in ordering the relocation of 27 veterinary hospitals and clinics from Bengaluru Urban to rural areas. The decision to move veterinary hospitals and clinics invited a lot of criticism from both animal activists and cattle owners. They staged protests at different locations in the city demanding that the government cancel its order.

The activists blamed the animal husbandry and veterinary services department for taking the decision to move those veterinary hospitals and clinics without prudence and just to keep a minister happy. The recent decision to hand over the building and the land, situated on Goodshed Road, belonging to the animal husbandry and veterinary services to the minorities' welfare department, also invited much criticism.

Residents of Chamarajpet staged a protest recently against the government decision to relocate a veterinary hospital in the vicinity

"The department must reopen all the hospitals shut down in December claiming these areas had fewer than 1,300 cattle units
– Arun Prasad, animal activist

Dr HP Venkatesh, Personal Secretary of Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, issued a circular on February 29 to the Commissioner of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to open veterinary sub-centres at Konanakunte in Bengaluru South, Byatarayanapura in Vijayanagar, Samandur and Hindenahalli in Anekal, Halanayakanahalli in Mahadevapura, and Haniyur in Yelahanka as the number of cattle units are more at these places and it is necessary to open veterinary clinics to provide treatment for cattle.

"The department must reopen all the hospitals and clinics shut down in December on the pretext of cattle units being less than 1,300 in those jurisdictions," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

Two writ petitions were filed in the High Court seeking direction to the government to cancel the order of relocation. Recently, the High Court issued an interim order directing the government not to relocate those clinics that are functioning till the next date of hearing.

Some cattle owners welcomed the government's decision to open the sub-centers, but a few insisted that those clinics should be reopened.

"We were very happy with the veterinary hospital at Halanayakanahalli. The government ordered the relocation of the hospital in December. It caused a lot of inconvenience to cattle owners. Now, the government wants to open a sub-centre here instead of reopening the veterinary hospital. More than 2,000 cattle units depend on the hospital so it would be a great help if the hospital is reopened," said Gaurav HS, a Halanayakanahalli resident.

Describing the decision to open sub-centers as a knee jerk reaction, Rashmi D'Souza, a former member of Karnataka Animal Welfare Board (KAWB) suggested the government provide all amenities at the existing veterinary hospitals on par with private hospitals.

"Animal activists and pet lovers are facing a lot of problems to take injured or sick stray dogs to private veterinary hospitals for treatment. They are compelled to spend a minimum of Rs 1,500 towards the treatment," said D'Souza.

BM had reported on Dec 30 about Halanayakanahalli residents staging a protest against the decision to relocate vet hospital in the area

Road linking Ejipura to Agara gets govt nod

Link between Inner and Outer Ring Roads is expected to stretch around 6.9 km

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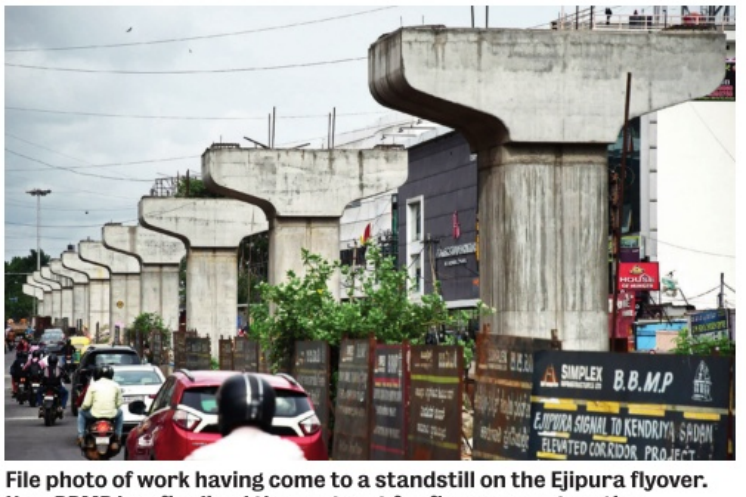
As the Ejipura flyover work is yet to resume, the state government has given the nod to a road connecting Ejipura to Agara making it an Inner to Outer Ring Road link road. When BBMP finalised the contract for the construction of the Ejipura flyover, there was a growing demand for the resumption of the old project of a 3-km link road between Inner Ring Road and Outer Ring Road. This is expected to reduce commute time by 20 minutes. Now, the link road is to pass from Ibbalur to Lower Agaram Road, through Ejipura junction stretching it to a 6.9-km stretch. "The 2015 master plan envisioned a road connecting East Bengaluru with ORR and HSR via Ejipura signal and Agara Lake junction. Our previous Congress government (2013-2018) allocated ₹30 crore for this project. However, due to an incomplete land handover, construction couldn't begin. Later, during the BJP's tenure, the allocated funds were diverted to another constituency. As the BTM constituency representative, I pledged to develop this crucial road. I'm happy to report significant progress," said Ramalinga Reddy on X.



File photo of work having come to a standstill on the Ejipura flyover. Now BBMP has finalised the contract for flyover construction

Teams from Defence and BBMP have conducted a joint survey for a link road extending from Ibbalur to Lower Agaram Road, passing through Ejipura junction. "With cooperation from Defence authorities and instructions to BBMP to expedite the process, we expect BBMP to initiate the tendering stage soon," said Reddy.

According to citizens living in the area, currently, commuters from areas like Indiranagar, Domlur, Old Madras Road, and Old Airport going to ORR have to go to Inner Ring Road to reach HSR Layout. "With this link, the traffic can be diverted from Ejipura to Iblur Junction. This would vastly reduce the traffic influx into Koramangala. While most of the project is envisioned at grade level, a small portion might be proposed for a bridge," said Raghu Rajagopal, president of Koramangala 4th block residents welfare association.

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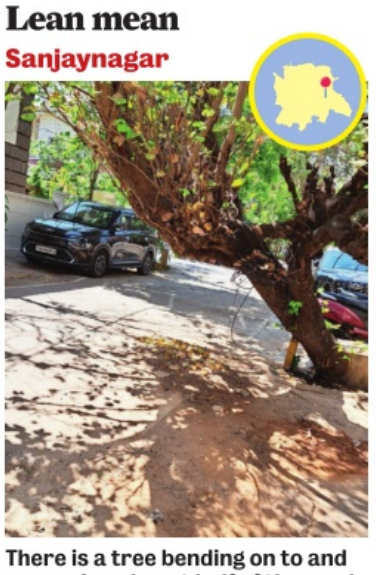
Cable unable
Padmanabhanagar

A private service provider has been involved in illegal optical fiber cable work in Padmanabhanagar Assembly Constituency, specifically in Ward No. 166, Karisandra, and Ward No. 165, Ganesh Mandira.

Lean mean
Sanjaynagar


There is a tree bending on to and occupying almost half of the road in Sanjaynagar. There is a danger that this tree could fall on the commuters and cause damage.

Space crunch
Kaggadasapura

Along Kaggadasapura 6th Main Road, near 6B and 6C Cross, vegetable vendors and fast-food eateries have encroached upon the narrow footpath, forcing pedestrians to walk in the middle of the road alongside vehicles.

Oil spoil: KSRTC asked to pay ₹1L in damages

Conductor asks passenger carrying 15 kg oil to get off midway; consumer forum rules it deficiency of service

Passenger was not charged luggage fee while boarding bus

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The Villupuram District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to pay Rs 1,00,000 as compensation to a passenger who was not allowed to travel on the bus for carrying 15 kg of homemade groundnut oil citing deficiency of service. The passenger K Deivasigamani raised a complaint regarding the issue under section 35 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

Deivasigamani had booked online tickets for himself and his family to travel to Bengaluru. When he boarded the bus at Villupuram, after noticing that he had been carrying 15 kg of homemade organic groundnut oil, the conductor initially had told him to keep it under the seat through their journey. However, soon after the conductor began to demand Rs 200 as a luggage charge for the oil. Deivasigamani agreed to pay Rs 50 as the oil only weighed 15 kg. This aggravated the conductor, leading him to report the issue to Kandachipuram Police station, alleged the passenger.

Despite this, after a conversation with a senior official from the KSRTC, the conductor, citing that unsealed oil without the purchase bill would not be allowed, dropped Deivasigamani off at the Kandachipuram bus stop with the oil, while his family (wife and daughters aged nine and four) continued their trip to Bengaluru on the bus due to unavailability of other buses to reach the city. However, this caused a lot of anxiety to the passenger as his family did not know much about going around the city. He had instructed his wife to get down at the Satellite bus stop and await his arrival.

Without any other solutions, Deivasigamani had to travel to Tiruvannamalai after getting a rental car worth Rs 3,000 and then catch a bus to Bengaluru. He had to stand throughout the journey, reaching the city at 5.45 am while his wife and children had reached the city at 2.45 am and were awaiting his arrival. The KSRTC has argued that no inflammable materials were allowed on the bus.

"The conductor ought to have inspected the passenger's luggage at entry level itself since it is an online reserved e-ticket. He never bothered to levy any luggage charge at the time of boarding," noted the commission while adding, "But after a long journey completed till Kandachipuram the act of the 2nd opposite party demanding Rs 200 as luggage charges presumes that the conductor never had intention to levy luggage charge but only to collect a huge amount from the complainant in the guise of luggage charges."

"..., we are of the considered opinion that the complainant is entitled for the compensation of Rs. 1,00,000 for the deficiency in service committed by 1st and 2nd opposite parties and also entitled for refund of Rs 660 incurred by him towards bus fare with litigation cost of Rs 5,000. But the complainant is not entitled for the alleged call taxi charges since he had not filed any document pertaining to it," the commission noted after much deliberation. The 1st party is the managing director of KSRTC while the 2nd party is the conductor of the bus.

Soil truck's driver tries to ram officer

A truck driver has been apprehended for allegedly trying to harm a government official, the tehsildar, by driving the truck towards him after the official questioned him about suspected illegal soil transportation.

The incident occurred near Bhimasandra in Harohalli of Ramanagara on February 29. Tehsildar Vijayanna had gone to inspect a truck. The driver, identified as Mahesh Kumar, became aware of Vijayanna's approach and attempted to evade him. Vijayanna positioned himself in front of the truck. When instructed to step out of the truck, Kumar purportedly tried to hit him. **BMB**

Flipkart launches its own UPI handle

E-commerce marketplace Flipkart on Sunday launched its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) handle to further enhance its digital payment offerings for all customers, including its 500+ million customers.

With Flipkart UPI, users can now set up their own UPI handle for online and offline Merchant transactions within and outside of the Flipkart marketplace. For a distinctive customer experience, loyalty features such as Supercoins, Cashback, Brand Vouchers, Milestone benefits and more will be offered post the UPI launch. On the Flipkart app, Flipkart UPI can be used to pay for any product or service. **–ANI**

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No mosquito can get away

After last year's dengue scare, Palike starts process to outsource pest control activities already

File photo of BBMP workers fogging an area to get rid of mosquitoes

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

During house-to-house survey, sprayman shall inspect for temporary water collection points such as overhead tanks, tyres, coconut shells and other places

Taking a hint from the chaos unleashed by the dengue menace last year, this year the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) aims to gear up to tackle mosquitoes early and effectively. The Palike plans to outsource its mosquito control activities this year and has already started floating tenders for mosquito control activities for zones in March itself.

Often citizens complain about inadequate mosquito fogging in areas leading to high mosquito breeding in the area. Last year, Bengaluru also battled with dengue seeing a 226 per cent increase in 2023 as compared to previous years. This year, the BBMP wants to have a lead on mosquito control activities such as identifying breeding spots and fogging those areas. The Palike will be planning to float a tender for all 225 wards in the coming days.

Currently, BBMP has floated tenders for the South zone, RR Nagar, and Bommanahalli.

BBMP will be hiring approximately three persons per ward for the activities. As per the tender, the primary responsibilities will be the spraying of larvicide, house-to-house survey, identification of breeding spots and source reduction, and health education. The contract will be drawn with the selected agency for 12 months.

The selected agency will have to identify the breeding spots with ward senior health inspectors of BBMP, and spraying of larvicide and mosquito control activities will have to be carried out in the designated area daily six days a week. The larvicide will be sprayed indoors and outdoors as per BBMP requirements.

The bidder would be required to ensure each sprayman conducts house to house surveys in a minimum of 50 households everyday between 11 am to 2 pm. During the house-to-house survey, the sprayman shall inspect for temporary water collection points such as overhead tanks, tyres, coconut shells and other places. Apart from providing manpower, the agency will have to provide the equipment, conduct Information, Education, Communication (IEC) activities, register complaints of residents, and be involved in active surveillance of breeding spots.

For conducting surveillance of the area and mosquito control activities, the agency would be required to take two signatures from resident welfare associations or residents.

Additionally, photographs with geolocation of daily activities conducted in each ward by the sprayman shall be uploaded mandatorily every day by the bidder in the 'BBMP MC Activity Monitoring App'.

BBMP will take up hand spray activities from 7 am to 10 am and IEC and source reduction activities from 11 am to 2 pm.

State govt staff 'must make asset, liability details public'

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, lead by former chief secretary TM Vijaya Bhaskar, has submitted its seventh and last report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday, recommending that all Group A, B and C employees of the state government, as well as employees working in public sector boards and corporations, place statements of their assets and liabilities on the respective department websites, for public information.

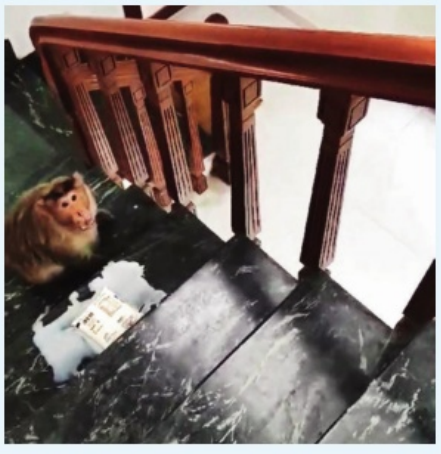
"The Government of India places immovable property returns submitted by IAS officers in public domain. On similar lines, state government employees should produce their details," the report said. The commission also noted that the Niyukthi software, developed by the e-Governance department for issuing transfer orders of IAS and KAS officers, can be made use for other government employees as well.

KAS report to CM suggests measures to increase transparency in state government offices; recommends ways to promote paperless work

Further, the commission has recommended that the secretariat be directed to return letters and proposals sent by subordinate officers on paper, with the motive of promoting paperless offices. They have said that an exception can be made with unavoidable cases, while the rest must be sent back with instructions mandating them to be sent on e-Office.

"A fortnight prior to Gandhi Jayanthi every year may be declared for Swachhata Abhiyan in all government, boards, corporations, local bodies and university offices for identifying and disposing of old files, reports, furniture, electronic items, vehicle spare parts etc lying in offices and office compounds," it recommended. It has also suggested that newly recruited staff must be made to undergo mandatory induction or orientation programmes.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD



Special guest

Home Minister G Parameshwara received an unexpected visitor at his residence. This guest, a monkey, is said to be a frequent visitor too. It enjoys such liberty that it ventures into the kitchen, opens the refrigerator, and helps itself to some milk. During a recent gathering with police officials, the sight of the monkey wandering in startled even the most senior officials and their security personnel. They tried to intervene, but Parameshwara reassured them that the monkey posed no threat and was free to quench its thirst in the kitchen.

Bomb v/s Brand

The recent bomb blast has sparked a heated exchange between government and opposition parties. Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, didn't mince words, accusing the government of turning Bengaluru from a brand into 'Bomb' Bengaluru. He didn't hold back, stating, "We're not talking about London or the US here; this happened in Bengaluru. You claim to promote Brand Bengaluru, ensuring law and order for businesses to thrive, but this incident raises serious questions about our direction." In response, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar remained tight-lipped, but said, "The police are on it, and the government is fully supportive. I'd rather not intervene."

Love-hate bond

During the recent Assembly session, former CM Basavaraj Bommai reminded Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about the 'love-hate' relationship they share. Bommai recounted their time together in the same party and their previous collaboration, emphasising on the depth of their shared history. In response, Siddaramaiah pointed out Bommai's tendency to speak candidly outside of sessions but not during them, referencing allegations made by Bommai against the Congress government. Bommai retorted with the suggestion that Siddaramaiah also bore responsibility for truth-telling. To which, the CM quipped, "When Bommai is outside the session, he seems to love me so much, but once inside, he opposes me."

Dress code

The Chief Minister recounted an incident involving BR Patil, Kodandaramaiah, and Ugrappa at a club where he was denied entry due to a strict dress code, despite being dressed in a dhoti. Reflecting on this, he expressed his resolve to establish a club of their own. He even drew a parallel to Mahatma Gandhi not being allowed to participate in the Round Table discussions. Proposing Balabrooie as the ideal location for the constitution club, the Chief Minister highlighted its proximity to Vidhana Soudha and the legislators' residences. With legislators currently lacking a dedicated space for discussions, leisure activities, or indoor games, the need for such a venue is evident.

Musical note

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, known for his compelling speeches, surprised many by singing the old devotional song 'Bhagyada Lakshmi Baramma'. Departing from his usual style, he used this moment to criticise the BJP and JDS for their lack of people-friendly schemes during their tenure. He stressed that the Congress government had introduced numerous schemes, such as Gruha Lakshmi, aimed at assisting women. He found it fitting to sing the song to highlight the government's efforts in this regard.

-Sridhar Vivan

Looking at case from all angles, public asked to shun speculation

Home Minister asks people to rely on official statements; says factors like rivalry, upcoming polls also considered

NSG team inspecting at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Whitefield on Saturday. A bomb exploded in the cafe on Friday afternoon injuring 10 people

Karnataka's Home Minister, Dr G Parameshwara, addressed the recent explosion at Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru, on Sunday, highlighting possible motives including business rivalry, electoral tension, and intimidating investors. The suspect, described as a man in disguise, however, remains elusive. Multiple investigative teams, including assistance from agencies like the NIA, NSG, and IB, are actively pursuing leads. Parameshwara emphasised on the need to consider various angles, such as potential attempts to disrupt the upcoming elections or deter investors attracted to Bengaluru's stable governance. Speculations on business rivalries and jealousy were also discussed.

He assured the public of relentless efforts to solve the case, urging reliance on official statements and cautioning against speculation. Regarding similarities with a previous blast in Mangaluru, Parameshwara noted resemblances in explosives assembly but refrained from concluding a connection to the perpetrators of that blast. Describing the bomb as low-intensity, Parameshwara explained how its vertical detonation prevented casualties, contrasting with potential horizontal impact. CCTV footage analysis and bus surveillance are underway to trace the suspect's movements, although the suspect still remains elusive.

If need arises, shall give case to NIA: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the government may consider handing over the Rameshwaram Café blast case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) if the need arises.Speaking about the blast at popular eatery at Brookefield on March 1, which left 10 people injured, the chief minister said that the Central Crime Branch (CCB) is investigating the matter.On the BJP's demand for an NIA probe, Siddaramaiah said, "We will see. The investigation has begun just now. No accused has been arrested yet. We will see if the need arises (for NIA investigation)."

'BJP tarnishing Karnataka's image'

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday slammed the BJP for tarnishing the image of Karnataka for petty political gains over the Rameshwaram Cafe incident. Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "The police have been given a free hand to investigate the blast case and they are investigating it. The government has taken serious note of it and we will do whatever it takes to protect the reputation of Bengaluru. The police are looking into all possible angles. The police will do whatever it takes to find out the perpetrators.""The BJP is exploiting the opportunity to gain political mileage. They are tarnishing the image of Bengaluru and Karnataka in the process. They may have forgotten things that happened during their term. I don't want to do politics over that, but they should introspect. At times like these, they should be aware of the nan's unity, integrity and peace," he added. **— BMB & Agencies**

> **"I also appeal to the opposition to cooperate with us and not politicise this issue** – Home Minister G Parameshwara

Probe is on; cafe owner urges strict action

After a horrific bomb-blast incident at the Rameshwaram Cafe, the police on Sunday morning conducted an investigation at the explosion site.

Meanwhile, the co-founder and CEO of the Rameshwaram Cafe, Raghavendra Rao, said that both the Union government and the state government should ensure that such incidents do not happen in the future and called for strict action. "I request the government of Karnataka and India to make sure that this incident should not happen anywhere in India," Raghavendra told reporters, extending his solidarity with the people and staff injured in the incident. **— ANI**

Notification confusion, yet another hurdle to assistant professor posts

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Feb 26 notification announced schedule for posting of new faculty; but later order says nothing about new postings

Assistant Professor candidates staging a protest (file photo)

The delay in issuing orders for filling the posts of assistant professors is causing confusion among the around 1,200 candidates selected for the posts. On February 26, they were elated when the Department of Collegiate Education issued a notification announcing the schedule for transfer of incumbent faculty and posting of new faculty.

As per the notification, the transfer of incumbent faculty has to begin on March 11 and conclude by March 13 and the posting of new faculty to begin on March 12 and conclude by March 14. However, the Department issued one more notification on February 27, stating that transfer of incumbent faculty must begin on March 21 and conclude on March 25. The notification stated that a separate notification would be issued for the posting of new faculty. It did not mention about the schedule for the posting of new faculty.

The new notification has shattered the dreams of the selected candidates. They are worried about further delay in issuing the posting order due to the model code of conduct that is expected to come into force either in the second or third week of this month.

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) issued a notification to conduct exams for the posts of assistant professors on September 30, 2021. The exams were held in December 2021 for 1,242 posts and 1,208 candidates were selected for the posts and the authorities recommended issuing appointment orders for 908 candidates. However, none of them were posted till date.

The candidates staged a protest at the Freedom Park on July 11, 2023.

Now, they have decided to stage a protest at the Freedom Park on March 5 demanding that the government issue posting orders to them. "I got 8th rank in Kannada but I am struggling to get the assistant professor post. I have not been able to get a guest lecturer post all these years. I appeal to the authorities to take measures to issue posting orders before the model code of conduct comes into effect," said N Jayashankar.

He said many of the candidates who were working as guest lecturers have already resigned placing their trust in the order dated February 26. "Now they, who quit guest lecturer posts, cannot join the same college where they worked earlier. So, it will be a great help to all the candidates if the Department of Collegiate Education completes the process of posting before the model code of conduct is announced on the eve of Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Ramesh S, one of the candidates waiting for the posting, said that he has been waiting for more than three years. "I appeal to the government to help the candidates waiting for posting," he said.

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real estate

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kempaiah, K. Raju,presently R/at No. 24, 10th Main Road, Mahadeshwaranagar,Main Road, Prasanna Layout, Bangalore-560091, have Changed My Name to Kempaiah vide Affidavit dated 06.11.2023 Sworn before notaryA. Gerard Bangalore.

I Murali S/O, Vijaykumar R/o Flat : 006 , Soma White House Apt, Aecs Layout C Block, Begur, Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Murali Vijaykumar.

I, SAMIYA TABASUM BASHEER No. 3 2nd main 15th cross Lakkasandra Blr 30. Changed my name SAMIYA TABASUM for all purpose.

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Good catch

Meghna Singh's four-wicket haul helped Gujarat Giants (GGT) to restrict Delhi Capitals (DC) at 163/8 in the 10th match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

What schools mustn't do

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Senior assistant director of Department of School Education, in a reply (dated February 22) to Amaresh, stated the Department of School Education did not give permission to any school to supply or sell books, uniforms and other materials.

"The circular has already been issued prohibiting sale of books, uniforms and other materials by schools," the senior assistant director said in reply to an RTI application.

Amaresh said despite the ban on sale of textbooks, uniforms, and other materials, around 90% of private and aided schools compel parents to buy books, uniforms and stationery materials from them or their agents.

"These schools make a lot of money by selling textbooks, uniforms and stationery at exorbitant prices. The Department of School Education must take measures to stop private schools exploiting parents," said Amaresh.

Stating that lack of awareness among the parents is the prima reason for private schools insisting them to buy books, uniforms and other material, Lakshmi Prasanna AK, a member of RTE Task Force, said some of the parents do not want to reject the teachers' advice to buy books, uniforms and other materials from schools or a shop recommended by the school.

"Parents follow such advice because they do not want their children to suffer. They are worried about their children's future. Many parents do not have information where textbooks are available," said Prasanna.

Blaming the education department officers for not taking stringent measures against the schools supplying books and uniforms, Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust suggested block education officers inspect schools during the beginning of the academic year.

"Issuing a circular is not sufficient to stop private and aided schools selling or supplying uniforms and books. Frequent visits by education officials to schools will have an impact and it will help gullible parents," said Rao.

PUTTING IT GENTLY...

Gentle touch molecule is essential for light tactile sensation in humans

> Researchers find force-sensing molecule ELKIN1 that converts gentle touch into an electrical signal, the first step in the process of gentle touch perception

You were probably taught that we have five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. This is not quite right: "touch" is not a single sense, but rather several working together.

Our bodies contain a network of sensory nerve cells with endings sitting in the skin that detect an array of different physical signals from our environment. The pleasant sensation of a gentle touch feels distinct from the light pressure of our clothes or the hardness of a pencil gripped between our fingers, and all of these are quite different from the pain of a stubbed toe.

How do these sensory neurons communicate such a wide range of different inputs?

In new research published in Science, the two co-authors of this article and our colleagues have found a force-sensing molecule in nerve cells called ELKIN1, which is specifically involved in detecting gentle touch. This molecule converts gentle touch into an electrical signal, the first step in the process of gentle touch perception.

How we sense gentle touch

Sensing gentle touch begins with tiny deformations of the skin due to a light brush.

While they may not seem like much, these deformations generate enough force to activate sensory molecules that are found in specialised nerve endings in the skin.

These molecular force sensors form a pore in the surface of the cell that is closed until a force is applied. When the cell is indented, the pore opens and an electrical current flows.

This electrical current can generate a signal that moves along the sensory nerve to the spinal cord and up to the brain.

Our new research, led by Gary Lewin and Sampurna Chakrabarti from the Max Delbruck Center in Berlin, showed the force sensor ELKIN1 is necessary for us to detect very gentle touch.

They found mice lacking the ELKIN1 molecule did not appear to sense a cotton bud being gently drawn across their paw. The mice retained their ability to sense other environmental information, including other types of touch.

Different molecules for different kinds of touch

This new finding reveals one reason we can sense multiple types of "touch": we have multiple, specialised force-sensing proteins that can help us distinguish different environmental signals.

ELKIN1 is the second touch-receptor molecule discovered in sensory neurons. The first (PIEZO2) was found in 2010 by Ardem Patapoutian, who was later awarded the Nobel Prize for the work. PIEZO2 is involved in sensing gentle touch, as well as a sense known as "proprioception". Proprioception is the sense of where our limbs are in space that helps us regulate our movements.

Identifying these force-sensing molecules is a challenge in itself. We need to be able to study nerve cells in isolation and measure electrical currents that flow into the cell while simultaneously applying controlled forces to the cells themselves.

Do cells feel?

While much of our research studied mouse neurons, not all scientific data obtained from mice can be directly translated to humans.

With team members at the University of Wollongong, one of us (Mirella Dottori) tried to determine whether ELKIN1 worked the same way in humans. They reprogrammed human stem cells to produce specialised nerve cells that respond to "touch" stimuli. In these human cells, ELKIN1 had similar functional properties of detecting touch.

While this research expands our understanding of how we make sense of the world around us, it also raises an additional, intriguing possibility.

ELKIN1 was first identified by one of us (Kate Poole) and her team at UNSW, with Gary Lewin and his team, while studying how melanoma cells break away from model tumours and "feel" their way through their surroundings. This could mean these tiny molecular force sensors give not only us, but our individual cells, a nuanced sense of touch.

Future research will continue to search for more molecular force sensors and endeavour to understand how they help our cells, and us, navigate our physical environment.

(By Kate Poole, UNSW Sydney and Mirella Dottori, University of Wollongong, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

8 ways to combat stressed out skin syndrome

Is your skin feeling a bit stressed out? Well, stress is not just for the mind, but it affects your skin too! When you are stressed, your body reacts by releasing chemicals that make your skin more sensitive and reactive. This chemical response can also slow down the healing process for any existing skin issues you might have.

When stressed, some tend to skip their skincare routine, making skin issues even worse. On the brighter side, Dr. Neha Khuraana, MD, dermatologist and Founder House of Aesthetics, explains simple ways to ease the effects of stress on your skin:

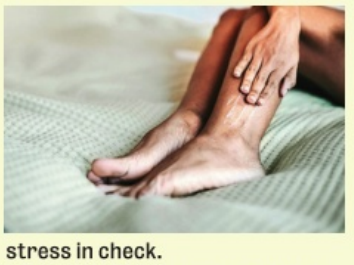
Care for your skin: Even on busy days, give your skin some TLC—it'll thank you for the love and care.

Move your body: Exercise not only keeps you fit but also helps your skin stay happy and healthy.

Spare some me-time: Take 10 minutes to relax—whether it's a bath or a good book, find your mini escape.

Take frequent strolls: A short walk around the block does wonders for your mind and skin.

Stress-busting techniques: Try easy techniques like deep breathing, yoga or meditation to keep



stress in check.

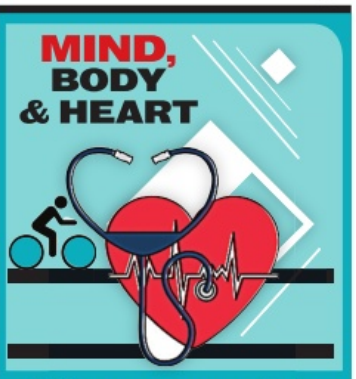
Get quality sleep: Aim for 7-8 hours of sleep. Your skin rejuvenates while you snooze.

Say 'no' with confidence: Set boundaries and learn to say no. It is okay to put yourself first.

Share Your Emotions: Talk to a friend or therapist when stress piles up. Sharing lightens the stress, leaving you and your skin feeling better.

Taking care of your skin is not just about the products you use, but also about how you manage stress. The connection between stress and skin issues is direct, but the you have the power to make a positive change. By incorporating simple habits into your routine, you can combat the effects of stress and achieve healthier, happier skin. Remember, self-care is not a luxury, but a necessity. So, prioritize your well-being. Your skin will reflect the care you provide, leaving you with a radiant and resilient glow.

— Femina



All you need to know about...

Covid virus in ear

Virus lingers
SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind Covid-19 disease, can act as a silent reservoir and be present in the middle ear for a month post-infection, according to a new study.

Ear connection
The study, published in the American Journal of Otolaryngology, found a potential association between the Covid virus and patients developing Otitis Media with Effusion (OME) in patients who suffered a bout of Omicron.

What is OME
OME is a collection of fluid in the middle ear that may be thick or sticky. Cold, sore throat or upper respiratory infection makes the fluid accumulate in the eardrum and can also cause temporary hearing impairment. It is most common among children between the age group of 3 to 7 years.

In middle ear
"Our study highlights the potential effects of Covid-19 on the middle ear, suggesting a link between SARS-CoV-2 and OME onset," said Chengzhou Han, from Wuxi Huishan District People's Hospital in China, in the paper.

Treatment strategies
"The virus, a significant contributor to OME, is detectable in the middle ear nearly a month post-Omicron infection, indicating a potential alteration in OME treatment strategies and a risk of recurrence, emphasising the necessity for otolaryngologist vigilance," Han added.
The study, conducted from January to June 2023, included 23 patients (32-84 years) who presented OME post-Omicron infection, with 21 exhibiting unilateral symptoms.
The study, conducted from January to June 2023, included 23 patients (32-84 years) who presented OME post-Omicron infection.

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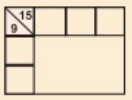
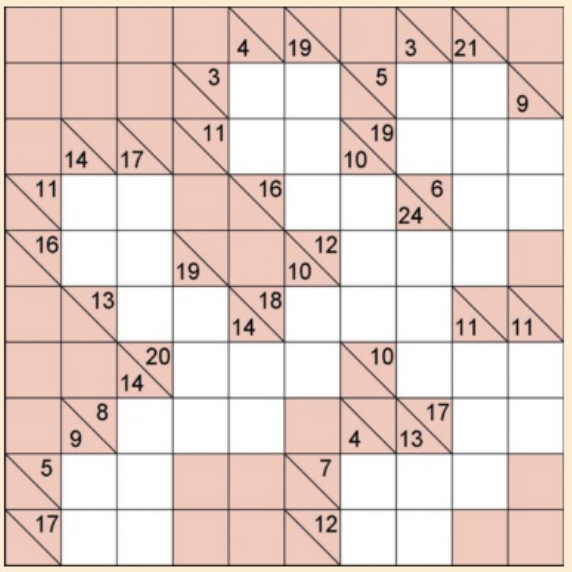
Kakuro

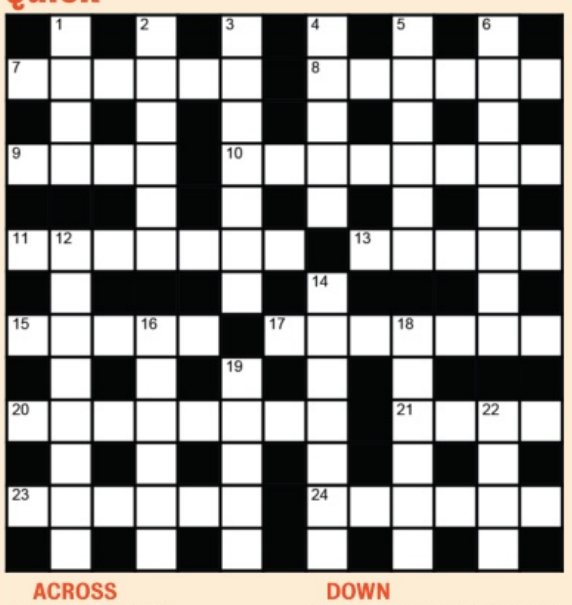
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Martial art (4,2)
8 Practice sessions (6)
9 Put on (4)
10 Country's administrative division (8)
11 Large or important church (7)
13 Rent out again (5)
15 Automobile with two doors (5)
17 Waste little by little (7)
20 Governor of Karnataka from 2009 to 2014 (8)
21 They are woven by spiders (4)
23 Native of United Kingdom (6)
24 Enrico ____ : famous Italian singer? (6)

DOWN

1 Fourth largest asteroid (4)
2 Way out, exit (6)
3 Uttered a witty remark (7)
4 Fool (5)
5 Limited, not endless (6)
6 Shiner (5-3)
12 A line joining points of equal temperature (8)
14 Planned undertaking (7)
16 Sea robber (6)
18 Cheap and showy (6)
19 Due (5)
22 Former U.S. President (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS T

XK KLC TDZHK, X LDPHC PQM-CWK VXQQDK IC HD FGHKZCH-HGQN XH X AGUC PQAGYCF.

Linemaro

They say dating is a numbers game... so can I get your number?

Mindchow

A person often meets his destiny on the road he took to avoid it

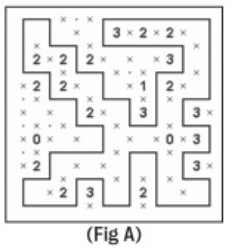
Joke of the day

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

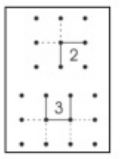
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

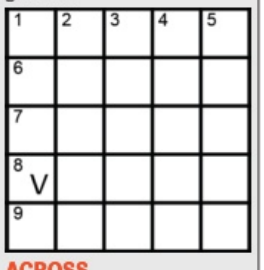
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

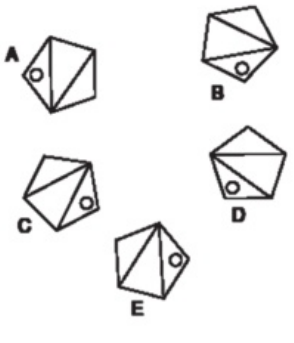
1 Claps; 6 Rug he;
7 Abode; 8 Us Vir;
9 Mascs

DOWN

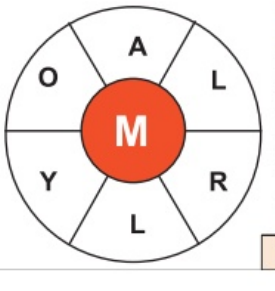
1 VC has; 2 Lucid;
3 A Argo; 4 Embus;
5 Spers

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6			8			4	
7			9		5			1
	1	5				8	9	
9			1		8			2
				5				
3			7		4			8
	7	4				3	2	
1			5		2			6
	2			3			5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
2 4 4 5

Medium = 10
1 6 7 8

Hard = 4
2 5 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

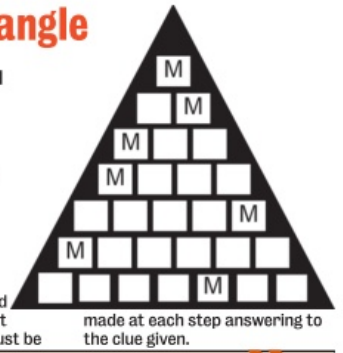
Differences: 1. Headlight is moved. 2. License plate is larger. 3. Plant leaf is missing. 4. Scooter handle is longer. 5. Mirror is moved. 6. Boutonniere is moved.

Riddler

West to where the cowboys reigned, It's where you go when you just don't care. A mighty member of the pack The life of the grizzly bear. Where is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Meter, abbr.
2 I think therefore I
3 Demented
4 Created
5 A vain hope
6 Defaced
7 Set to fight anew

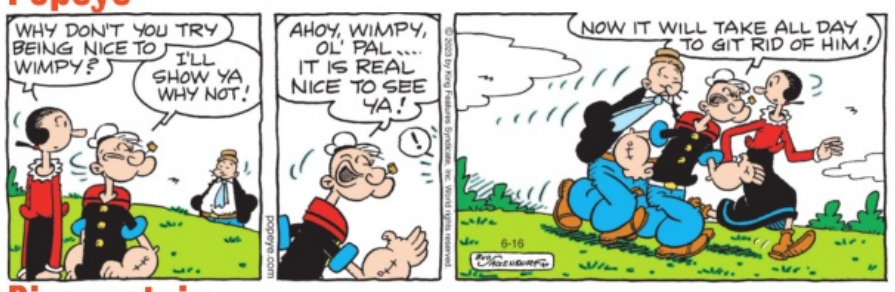


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WHY DON'T YOU TRY BEING NICE TO WIMPY?
I'LL SHOW YA WHY NOT!
AHOY, WIMPY, OL' PAL.... IT IS REAL NICE TO SEE YA!
NOW IT WILL TAKE ALL DAY TO GIT RID OF HIM!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

SO DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
YEAH, IS YOUR LAST NAME REALLY WINKERBEAN?
IS YOURS REALLY CRANKSHAFT?
GOOD POINT... I WONDER WHO CAME UP WITH OUR NAMES ANYWAY?
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

HE WAS DEHYDRATED, MALNOURISHED AND HAS SOME SCARRING UNDER HIS COLLAR. BUT YOU ALL RESCUED HIM IN TIME!
IT'S AMAZING. DESPITE THE ABUSE HE SUFFERED, HE IS SO RESILIENT AND SO LOVING WITH THE ENTIRE STAFF.
HE'S AN ANGEL.
HE'S A TROOPER
HE'S A SWEET-HEART.
HE'S A DOG.
mutts.com/GuardDog

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your colleagues and friends may help you in the completion of some important projects.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel happy and your health is also good, which may give you inner strength and self-confidence. Your conscience may not allow you to manipulate a messy task to maintain your reputation around in your circles. Your social prestige is likely to be increased due to this.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You are appreciated by your seniors, you may also get promotions. Your losses may convert into profits now, which will increase liquidity in the business. You will plan to invest more capital into family business that will increase your family business in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance otherwise you may face some losses due to your speaking while you are talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful during discussions otherwise their relationship may get affected.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be very happy as your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to see changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, there may be peace of mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity into your business. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find suitable matches. Love birds may make a decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today destiny is with you and your health may be good. You are likely to go to some religious place with family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity. Property-related deals are likely to be done. You may plan for an overseas trip related to work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be a victim of conspiracies. You should avoid getting involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this critical situation. You are advised to avoid getting into arguments in love life. You should also avoid rush driving or any adventurous outing.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you will be happy. You may feel peace of mind. Your focus towards your goals would be very good. You are likely to enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may be stronger now. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

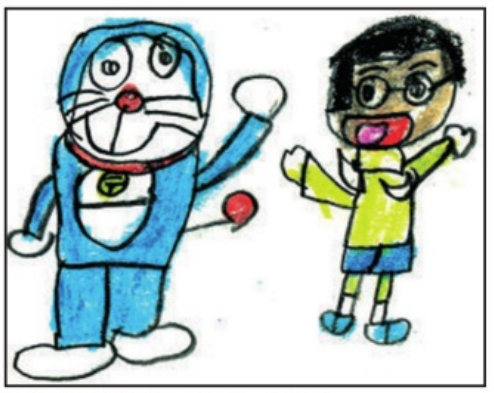
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good and it may boost your terms with seniors. You are likely to get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily, which may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may pay off in terms of gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics, as it may waste your precious time.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and may be dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience and avoid taking any decision in a hurry. You are advised to take care of your parents.

KIDZONE

Anitha R, 12 Years, St. Paul High School



Pratham Karthik G, 6 Years, Presidency School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 210+64/4-225
= 210+16-225
= 226-225
=1

BULL'S EYE
amyl, army, loam, loamy, mall, mayor, molar, moll, moral, MORALLY, moray, roam

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	M	S
V	I	R	U	S
A	D	O	B	E
H	U	G	E	R
C	L	A	S	P

STRIKE OUT

D	A	V	Y	S	A	D	H	E	R	E	N	T		
E	L	E	A	V	E	R	J	E						
K	R	I	S		E	P	I	T	A	P	H	S		
C	D	A	L		P	E	O		W	E	B	S		
I	M	A	G	I	N	E	D		O	K	R	A		
P	O	E		A	P	S		E						
S	H	A	R	K	L	I	T	R	E					
P		T		C	G	E	M	S						
L	E	O	N		G	I	V	E	O	V	E	R		
D	A		A	R		A	T	E		E				
C	O	C	K	P	I	T	S		O	W	E	N		
U		A		A	I	D	A	H	O		I			
D	O	M	I	N	A	N	T		P	H	I	L		

QUICK

M		E		G		T		Y		H				
B	R	I	T	O	N		C	A	R	U	S	O		
E		A		I		E		D		U				
B	H	A	R	D	W	A	J		W	E	B	S		
T		I		O		O		A						
C	O	U	P	E		F	R	I	T	T	E	R		
S				D		P				Y				
M	I	N	S	T	E	R		R	E	L	E	T		
S				P		T		T		K				
W	O	R	E		P	R	O	V	I	N	C	E		
N		R		I		I		N		A				
K	U	N	G	F	U		O	R	I	L	L	S		
J		E		O		I		F		B				

QUOTE UNCODE
At the worst, a house unkept cannot be so distressing as a life unlived.

RIDDLER
Wild

MENSA PUZZLE
D: the rest are the same figure rotated.

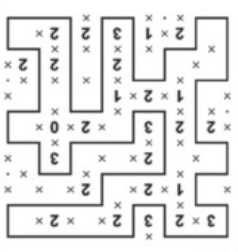
SUDOKU

8	2	6	4	3	9	1	5	7
1	9	3	5	7	2	4	8	6
5	7	4	8	1	6	3	2	9
3	5	2	7	9	4	6	1	8
6	8	1	2	5	3	9	7	4
9	4	7	1	6	8	5	3	2
4	1	5	6	2	7	8	9	3
7	3	8	9	4	5	2	6	1
2	6	9	3	8	1	7	4	5

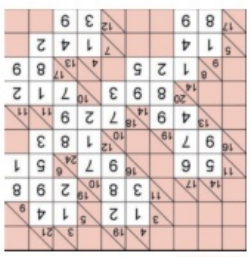
ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Mad, Made, Dream, Marred, Rearmed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 – 5 + 4 + 4 = 5
7 + 8 – 6 + 1 = 10
Medium
3 + 8 – 5 – 2 = 4
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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Who's with whom

How B-Towns friends came together for big bash

Bollywood's elite came together at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding celebrations, showcasing not just the grandeur of the event but also the warmth of industry camaraderie. Among the highlights were the lively moments captured in new pictures featuring Ranbir Kapoor, alongside rumoured couple Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur, as they soaked themselves in the festivities.

In the unseen picture, Ranbir was seen enthusiastically cheering on Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur. Going by the picture, it looks like Ranbir has already given a loud shoutout to Ananya and Aditya's relationship.

In another corner of the celebrations, the spotlight also shone on Janhvi Kapoor, who was spotted posing with her rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya, accompanied by none other than her supportive brother, Arjun Kapoor. The trio exuded charm as they posed for the cameras, hinting at Arjun's approval of Janhvi's alleged relationship.

Adding to the buzz, Shraddha Kapoor made an appearance with her rumoured boyfriend Rahul Mody on the first day of the festivities. The duo seemed to be enjoying each other's company, adding a touch of romance to the star studded affair.

On the other hand, parents-to-be Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh grooved to the 'Gallan Goodiyaan' song. The couple recently announced pregnancy.

The night is set to have performances by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and musicians like Pritam, Shreya Ghoshal, Udit Narayan, Shaan, Sukhwinder Singh, Mohit Chauhan, Monali Thakur, Arijit Singh, Lucky Ali, Neeti Mohan. **–ETimes**

Indian women 'shine their light in Hollywood'

South Asian women, especially of Indian origin, taking center-stage in global titles like "Bridgerton" and "One Day" was long overdue, says Indian-American actor Avantika, who plays Karen Shetty in the new iteration of the popular teen comedy "Mean Girls".

This is not the first acting gig for the 19-year-old, born to an Indian family in California. Avantika made her debut with 2016's "Brahmotsavam", a film in her mother tongue Telugu.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas ("Citadel"), Simone Ashely ("Bridgerton"), and Ambika Mod ("One Day", the line-up of female actors with an Indian connect is only getting longer with Avantika's name in it.

"It has been a long time coming considering we are a large population with so many incredibly, beautiful, and talented women. It was time that a community of 1.5 billion people was represented on the global (stage)," the actor told PTI in an interview. Crediting the women paved the way for actors like her to come up, Avantika said she and her contemporaries hope to do similar for "future generation of South Asian women" so things are a bit easier for them.

"It's amazing that Indian women have kind of been able to shine their light in Hollywood... I feel honoured to be a part of this legacy," she added. Growing up on films such as "Matilda" and "3 Idiots", which she described as a heartfelt portrayal of the human condition, propelled Avantika's love for cinema. **–PTI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Same pinch

The successful movie Krishna Nee Begane Baaro that released in September 1986 is well known. Now, Telugu movie director G Surya Teja debuts in Sandalwood by helming a movie with the same title. Its muhurat function was held at Balamauri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple in the city recently.

Sandalwood actors Anish Tejeshwar and Ishaan sounded the clapboard and wished the cast and crew of Krishna Nee Begane Baaro all the best. Pullet Srinibabau switched on the camera. S Neelakanta of Dubai and Chalapathi Raju are bankrolling the movie under the Neelakanta Arts banner.

Surya Teja, a management graduate, has

worked as associate for Nani-starrer Jersey and became an independent director with Focus, a crime thriller.

Surya Teja said the title of the movie is apt for its story. "Care has been taken to ensure importance to all the characters. The movie has many sub-plots and each plot takes place in a different city. The hero is an introvert and tries to keep girls at arm's length. Finally, he ends up connecting with not one girl but four girls," says Teja. The movie will be shot in and around Bengaluru, Goa, and Kerala.

Teen cult movie

Director Arun Amukta is set to make a comeback with a bang after a gap of a decade. He directed the movie Loosegalu in which Sri Murali and Akul played key roles in September 2013. Now, Amukta is happy with the successful poster and motion poster launch of his latest movie Vidyarthi Vidyarthineeyare, a teen cult movie.

"There are some successful Kannada movies based on high school and college students but my movie is different. It has my signature. It attempts to narrate various problems and addictions of the current generation," said Amukta.

He said the movie went on floors five months ago. "I did not organise a muhurat function as I consider work as worship. I want to meet media persons after wrapping up the shoot. The shooting of the movie will be completed in a few days,"

the director said.

The movie's shooting is held for 50 days in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Chikkamagaluru. "Chandan Shetty plays the lead in the movie. His character in the movie is completely different from those in his previous films," the director said.

The movie features Bhavana Appu, Amar, Manasvi Vivan, Sunil Puranik, Aravind Raj, Cockroach Sudhi and others.